



SEAL
Student Epidemic Action Leaders

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SEAL TEAM

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Since the Student Epidemic Action Leaders (SEAL) program began in 2015, we have trained **233 students** who have collectively deployed to **129 unique field assignments** across local, state, and international public health agencies. In January 2025, we welcomed our 10th cohort of SEALs!

OUR 2025 SEAL COHORT

During Winter Quarter, the 2025 SEAL cohort completed our field epidemiology training course taught by SEAL Team Director, Dr. Janet Baseman and Dr. Anne Massey. The course featured guest speakers from the Washington State Department of Health (WSDOH) and Public Health—Seattle and King County (PHSKC). After successful course completion, SEALs deployed to field assignments in the spring, summer, and fall. In addition to this year's virtual and Seattle-based field assignments, we were able to send four students to Chelan and Douglas counties in north central Washington!

The SEALs returned to the classroom in the fall and received training on communication and data visualization in public health. They subsequently prepared and delivered presentations on their field work to their peers and instructors. We concluded the year with three group activities that provided SEALs with an opportunity to learn more about public health practice and consider related post-graduation options: an on-site tour of the WSDOH Public Health Laboratory, a meet-and-greet with local epidemiologists, and a panel session featuring SEAL alumni discussing their experiences in applied epidemiology fellowships.



**Visit to the WSDOH
Public Health
Laboratories (Nov 2025)**



**Field assignment visit to
the Chelan County
Fairgrounds (Aug 2025)**

NEW THIS YEAR!

In addition to our traditional SEAL activities, we also had an abstract accepted to the Council for State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Annual Conference for our work to evaluate the impact of the SEAL team partnerships in Washington State. This work will be presented June 2026, in Boston, Massachusetts. This evaluation summarizes the results from a survey of site supervisors and SEAL alumni to assess the impact of the SEAL team on our public health workforce. We plan to share these findings more broadly, soon!

2025 FIELD ASSIGNMENTS

DEPLOYED TO 6 PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES:

- California Department of Public Health
- Chelan-Douglas Health District
- Public Health—Seattle and King County
- Snohomish County Health Department
- Walla Walla County Department of Community Health
- Washington State Department of Health (including the Washington Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence)

19

UNIQUE FIELD
ASSIGNMENTS

1,102

TOTAL HOURS SPENT ON
FIELD WORK TO DATE

ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDED:

- Survey of Antimicrobial Stewardship Practices in Washington Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Analysis of Ice Cream Vendor Environmental Health Data
- Communicable Disease Data Management and Analysis
- Enteric Disease Podcast Transcript Support
- California Enteric Outbreak Interviews and Cluster Investigation
- Food Safety in Carceral Settings: Evaluation Design
- PPE and Healthcare Laboratory Equipment Supply Chain Dependency Analysis
- Mapping High-Risk Zones for Avian Influenza Transmission to Humans in North Central Washington
- Norovirus in Schools Toolkit Audit and Update
- Communicable Disease Data Dashboard Development
- Mapping of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) to Identify High Incidence Rate Areas
- Foodborne Illness Notification System Data Support
- Evaluation of the Snohomish County Emergency Response Toolkit
- Food Vendor Permitting Barriers Survey Analysis
- Identification of Risk Factors for Individuals Diagnosed with Multiple Enteric Infections
- Shigellosis Outbreak Questionnaire Implementation
- Avian Influenza Surveillance Data Management

**New podcast launched in
2025 written by SEAL
students**

foodborne

Over the last two years, 6 SEALs supported the development and content creation for the podcast *Foodborne* in collaboration with the Washington Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence.



Foodborne aims to communicate lessons learned from historic, impactful foodborne outbreaks through storytelling for early career professionals.

24 SEAL STUDENTS IN THE 2025 COHORT

- Representing **3** departments within the School of Public Health (Epidemiology, Global Health, Health Systems and Population Health)
- Earning Master of Science (**MS**) and Master of Public Health (**MPH**) degrees

We just welcomed our **11th SEAL cohort** and training is currently underway!
We are looking forward to the year ahead with **our 29 new SEALs!**